

AFAFD Standard Operating Procedure 28

Dive Rescue and Recovery

- The minimum response to any dive rescue situation will involve three dive team members and two support personnel trained in shore-based operations. One of the dive team members will assume the position of team leader and will not dive unless needed. Mode of dive will also be determined by time factor submersion of victim and water temperature. (Rescue vs. Recovery)
- The minimum equipment response will be for each diver: wet suit, set of fins, set of booties, mask, hood, pair of gloves, BC, regulator assembly, 2 tanks, and a light. In addition, search lines, buoys, tarps and weight box are required.
- **Dive Team Leader:**
 - Reports to Incident Commander and is solely responsible for dive team member's actions, safety and planning of the dive. Will not dive unless absolutely necessary.
- **Diver:**
 - Don appropriate dive suit and direct/assist shore personnel in staging of equipment. Will buddy with at least one other diver/line tender and perform an equipment check.
 - Will perform dive as planned and directed by Dive Team Leader.
 - If victim/item is found will act accordingly with dive plan and type of dive condition. (Rescue/Recovery)
 - Has the responsibility to acquire time of dive/air consumption from their dive tender.
- **Safety Diver:**
 - Must remain alert to the scenario and capable of instantly responding with direction from a tender's signal or diver's call for help.
 - Position will be determined by the number of divers he/she is to provide coverage for.
 - Will be fully suited to include fins, and should be immediately adjacent to the water.
- **Tender:**
 - This position should be manned by individuals who have had prior training in dive tending and have worked with the dive team. The tender is to be positioned as directed by the Dive Team Leader and his search diver to ensure that the pattern and area are those prescribed to cover based upon all valid information
 - **In the event of a diver signaling a find, the tender should tie a double figure 8 to mark the distance on the line for future investigation.**
 - Responsible for ensuring that the search diver does not exceed the planned time of dive as outlined from the Dive Team Leader.